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COVER ARTIST:
Fungi Dube

Fungi Dube is a Zimbabwean designer and Pan-Africanist passionate about keeping the spirit of African culture alive. The daughter of two veterinary surgeons, and shaped by experiences around wildlife across Southern Africa, she created our cover illustration in celebration of AWF's mission to conserve the continent's natural heritage.

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2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**SEIZING
THE
MOMENT**

OUR VISION

An Africa where sustainable development includes thriving wildlife and wild lands as a cultural and economic asset for Africa's future generations.

- OUR VALUES

BALANCE

Recognizing the intrinsic value of wildlife existing in harmony with people and their needs

EMPOWERMENT

Building the strength of others to accomplish what no one individual can do alone

INNOVATION

Fostering new approaches to shape the future of modern Africa

LEADERSHIP

Amplifying the unlimited potential of Africans to lead solutions for the continent and the world

INCLUSIVITY

Inviting diversity into partnership as the only path to mission success



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Our strategies and partnerships are successfully building capacity and resilience on the continent, helping national and local leaders navigate choices and embed conservation into their long-term planning.

KADDU SEBUNYA
AWF Chief Executive Officer

AUSTRIA: AWF CEO KADDU SEBUNYA AT
THE 2025 SALZBURG GLOBAL WEEKEND.

LETTER FROM THE CEO:

Seizing the Moment

This year marked a moment of global disruption, with shifting international investment priorities, changing geopolitical alliances, and impatience for the status quo expressed across the world.

What became clear amid this disruption is that Africa's relationship to the world and our governments' relationships with their constituencies are changing. African youth are demanding their seats at the table. There is demand for greater sovereignty in decision-making and more transparency from leaders, and an appetite for solutions to conservation and development challenges grounded in national and continental priorities. Conservation as it is practiced on the continent needs to adapt.

As Africa's international conservation NGO, AWF is uniquely positioned for this moment. Our 10-year strategy emphasizes supporting African decision-making and linking conservation to the aspirations of the continent's people. Five years into the execution of the strategy, our approach is successfully building capacity and resilience on the continent, helping national and local leaders navigate choices and embed conservation into their long-term planning.

Looking at our accomplishments for fiscal year 2025, you will see how essential our emphasis on African leadership is in delivering durable conservation outcomes. It is the foundation of everything we do. Whether creating green growth investment plans in Rwanda and Kenya's Kajiado County, convening policy dialogues with ministers and heads of state, enhancing wildlife law enforcement and protected area management, or creating professional and economic opportunity for Africa's youth, AWF works for Africa's people and wildlife by supporting effective homegrown conservation leadership.

At the continental level, our work this year with the African Union and the Africa Protected Area Directors network reinforced lessons we see daily: Africa is most influential when institutions are prepared, positions are unified, and leadership is backed by evidence. This is important because Africa is entering a new era of global influence. The question is no longer whether the continent will lead, but how, and whether that leadership will be grounded in long-term investment, strong governance, and a clear understanding that conservation is foundational to Africa's stability and prosperity. AWF is here to help our leaders make choices that promote a future where people and wildlife thrive.

I invite you to explore in this report how we are helping Africa make essential decisions to value wildlife and wild lands—decisions grounded in informed leadership, partnership, and a shared responsibility for the continent's people and wildlife.

Our work would not be possible without supporters and strategic partners like you. Together, we can be part of building a future where conservation is recognized not as an external obligation but as a cornerstone of economic growth.

Asante sana,

Kaddu Sebunya
AWF Chief Executive Officer

AFRICA HOLDS:

~25% of global biodiversity

30% of the world's critical minerals



Africa has **11** of the world's fastest growing economies



60% of the population is under age **25**

What Makes Us Unique?

AWF drives transformative change in Africa by linking conservation to sustainable development using conservation strategies that leverage African ambitions for sustainable growth and deep cultural values for nature.

We emphasize African leadership—and responsibility—in making choices that protect our natural heritage. And we recognize the importance of partnership with a global community that shares our goal of building a future where people and wildlife thrive.

Our Theory of Change



IF...

people own, benefit from, and value wildlife and wild lands



THEN...

people will make cultural and economic choices to sustain them



LEADING TO...

the integration of conservation into resource planning and investment



ENABLING...

sustainable development and land use that maintains the integrity of natural systems



RESULTING IN...

better long-term quality of life for people and wildlife.

Organizational Goals



As Africa’s international conservation NGO, our work is in service of the well-being of Africa’s people and wildlife. It begins with trust.



“

At TUI Care Foundation, our mission is to use the potential of tourism to create positive impact for people and nature in destinations around the world. Together with the African Wildlife Foundation, through our two wildlife projects in Kenya's Tsavo region and Rwanda, we are protecting endangered species, strengthening community resilience, and advancing innovative approaches. These projects underline how responsible tourism development can drive lasting benefits for both wildlife and local communities.

ALEXANDER PANCZUK
Managing Director of TUI Care Foundation

RWANDA: MOUNTAIN GORILLA ON LAND DONATED BY AWF FOR RESTORATION TO VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK.

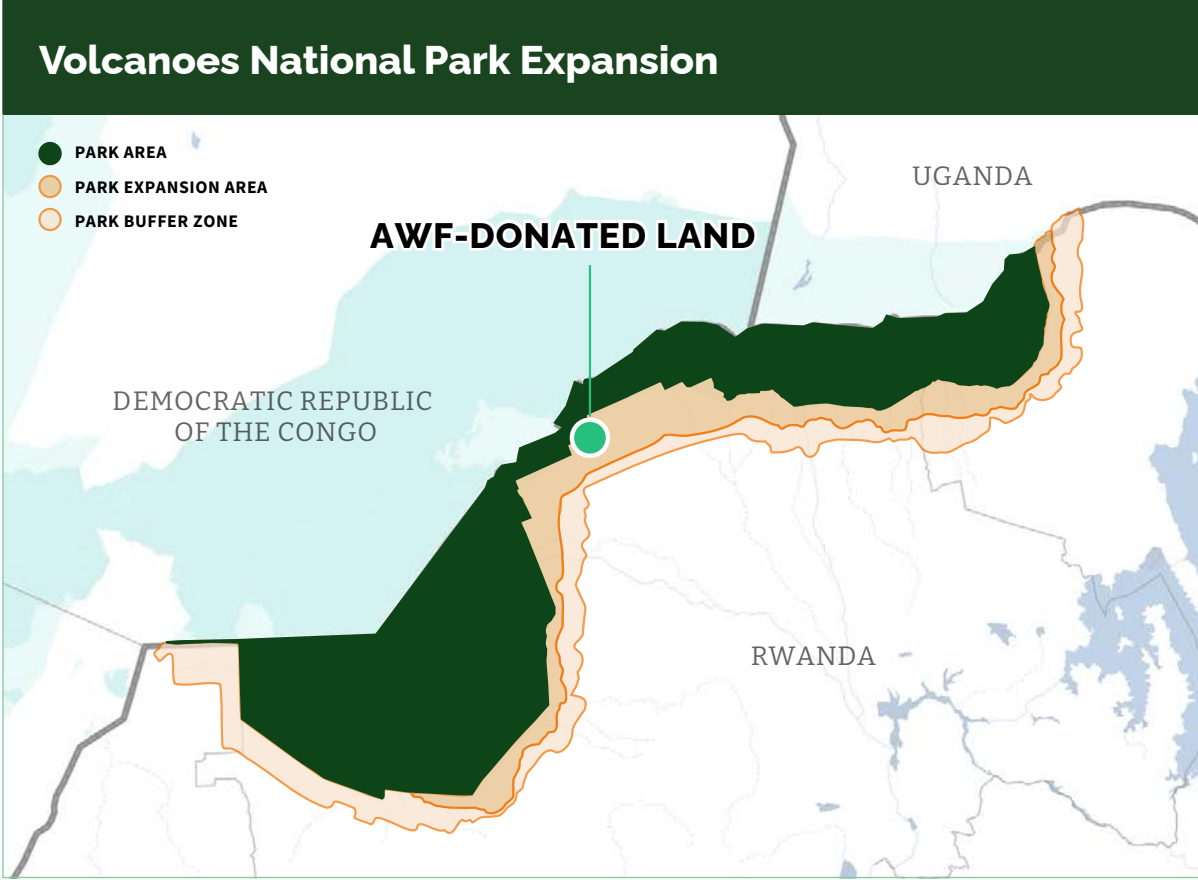
Applying Our Approach:
Creating Space for Wildlife

In partnership with the Government of Rwanda, the African Wildlife Foundation is continuing with an innovative model that positions ecosystem restoration as the driving force behind poverty alleviation and green growth. This is not conservation despite development, or development at the expense of nature. This is a rights-based approach that recognizes local communities as essential partners and the primary stewards of their natural heritage.

The comprehensive Conservation and Development Master Plan was completed in March 2024, providing a blueprint for how Rwanda can simultaneously expand gorilla habitat in Volcanoes National Park while creating a thriving biodiversity

economy in the region. This year, gorillas began using 27 hectares of restored land AWF donated to Volcanoes National Park. A business incubation program, launched in partnership with Inkomoko, equips local entrepreneurs with the skills and capital to build conservation-compatible enterprises. And a newly established Volcanoes Community Association Horticulture Hub creates stable employment while demonstrating the economic viability of high-value agriculture.

These are not isolated projects—they are integrated components of a single, cohesive strategy.





SCIENCE IN 2025



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We are grateful for AWF's longstanding partnership with EWCA and their emphasis on conservation that integrates the needs of people and wildlife. Their essential support in the development of the national *Walia Ibex Conservation Strategy and Action Plan* is part of ensuring the survival of an important species for Ethiopia.

KUMARA WAKJIRA
Director General, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority

Wildlife

We monitored 41 populations of priority wildlife species, analyzing field and other data to determine threats facing each population. Specific populations were chosen because their viability provides good indications of overall ecosystem health and wildlife security.

In addition to monitoring key species, we improved the capacity of law enforcement to detect, deter, investigate, and prosecute wildlife crime. We also supported effective wildlife management by providing on-the-ground training and resources for wildlife authorities and community scouts, helping to shape national wildlife policies.

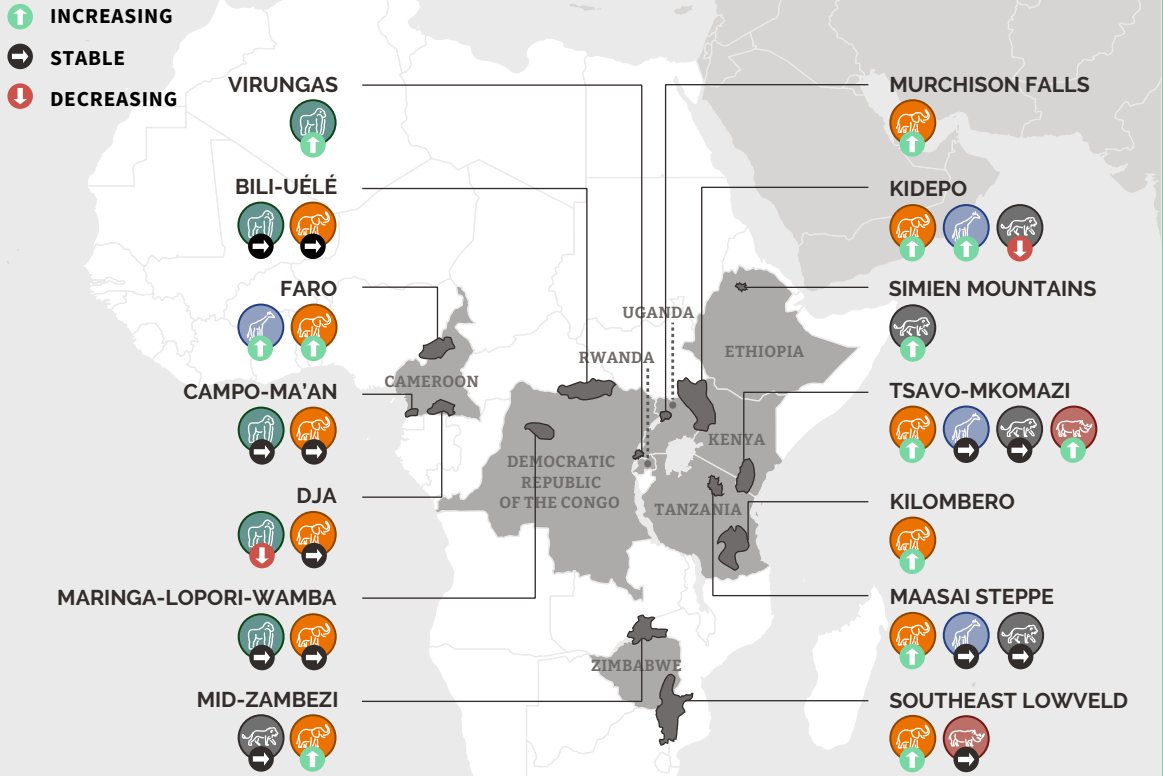
In Ethiopia, we have provided technical and financial support to develop the first ever *Walia Ibex Conservation Strategy and Action Plan*, working closely with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and stakeholders. We also supported the Uganda Wildlife Authority’s (UWA) giraffe assessment in Kidepo and advanced Uganda’s rhino reintroduction program by training rangers from the Kidepo and Murchison landscapes in rhino monitoring and management. In Kenya, we are current members of national committees for rhinos and elephants and consult on economic development strategies impacting wildlife corridors and ecosystem services, including formulation of the *2025 Wildlife Conservation and Management Act*.

At a regional level, this year our scientists were part of the review panel for the IUCN’s Green Status Assessment of the Northern Lion (West and Central Africa).



CAMEROON: CAMERA TRAP PHOTOS FROM FARO AND CAMPO MA'AN.

Status of Species Populations



Great Apes	Elephants	Giraffes	Large Carnivores	Rhinos
- Bonobos - Central & eastern chimpanzees - Mountain gorillas - Western lowland gorillas	- Forest elephants - Savanna elephants	All species	- African wild dogs - Cheetahs - Ethiopian wolves - Lions	- Eastern black rhinos - Southern black rhinos - Southern white rhinos

Counter Wildlife Trafficking

Fiscal Year 2025

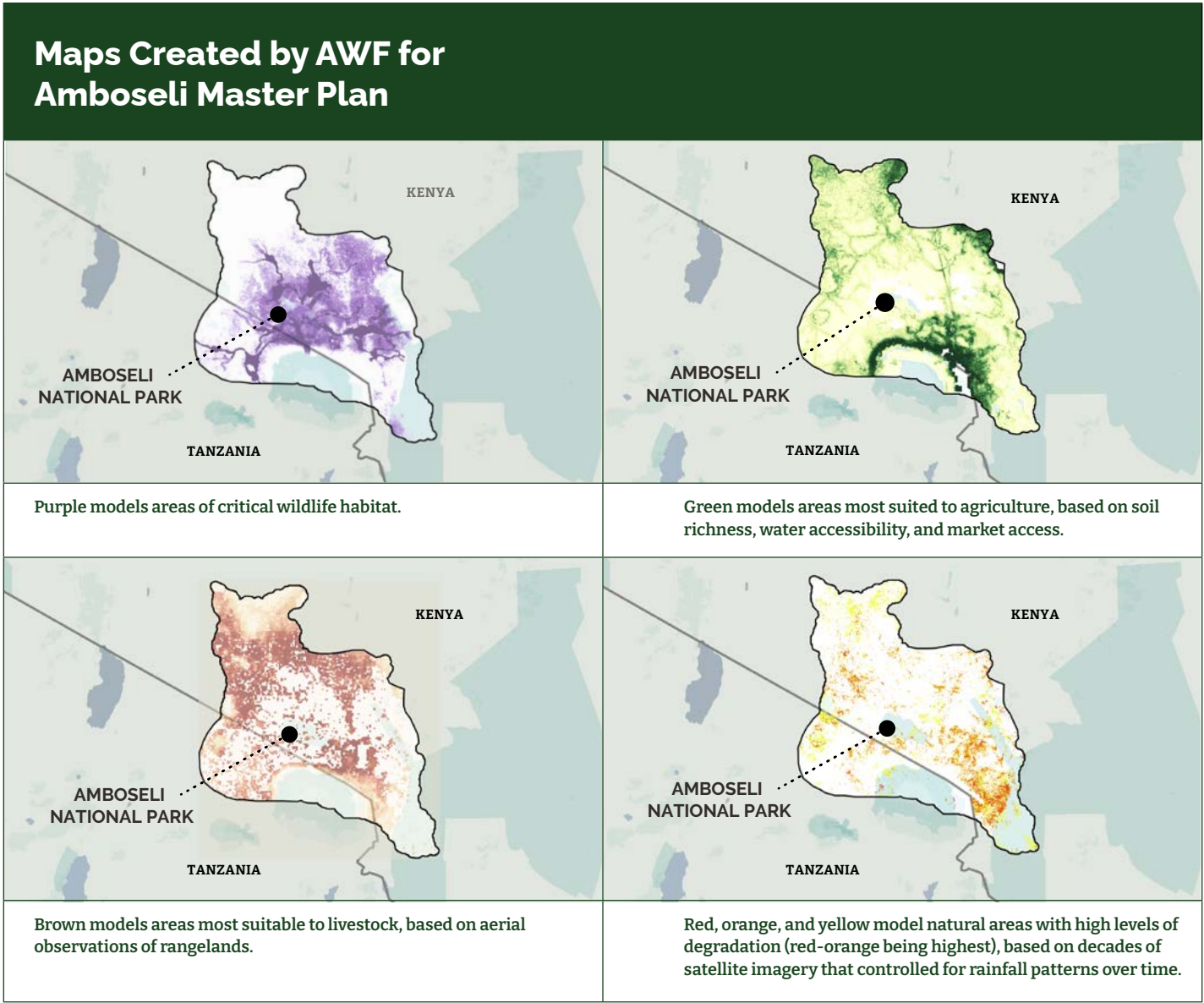
~300 law enforcement personnel trained (DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania)	47 arrests supported by special investigations	89% conviction rate of 414 monitored court cases (DRC, Kenya, and Uganda)	104 arrests resulting from canine searches at airports and border crossings
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The transition of canine deterrence and detection units in Botswana, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania to full government oversight was a major milestone this year in AWF’s Counter Wildlife Trafficking Program, demonstrating our commitment to promoting long-term sustainability and African ownership.

Conservation Geography

The Conservation Geography team applies geospatial analysis to support planning, monitoring, and learning at local, regional, and national levels. This year, we expanded the use of powerful cloud-based processing in Google Earth Engine for vegetation trend and program impact evaluations, allowing us to leverage decades of satellite imagery. We also began an exploratory technical collaboration with the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence to test new approaches to land use and land cover mapping.

GIS analyses are informing a partnership with Kenya’s Kajiado County, which invited AWF to assist in creating a master plan for how the county can drive sustainable economic growth grounded in the Maasai community’s relationship with Amboseli National Park. As part of that plan, the team contributed stakeholder-informed spatial analyses of land use change, projected impacts, and models of tourism distribution across the greater Amboseli ecosystem. Additionally, we supported partner organizations in the landscape in onboarding and using GIS software. Work with wildlife authorities and other partners in the Faro (Cameroon) and Simien Mountains (Ethiopia) landscapes is leading to a more robust, consistent, and repeatable approach to spatial monitoring. And scenario modeling in Rwanda is helping the government make a case for a more sustainable green growth plan emphasizing wetland and forest protection towards enhanced water quality, flow, and climate resilience.



Wildlife Rescue: Cameroon



A lizard, two monkeys, and three tortoises—this isn’t the start of a fable, but a real rescue story from Cameroon’s Dja Faunal Reserve in March 2025, one of 29 rescues that took place in the landscape this year. The animals were recovered during an anti-poaching operation led by Cameroon’s wildlife authority (MINFOP) in partnership with AWF and with support from the European Union and UNESCO. They went on to receive care at Mvog-Betsi Zoo.



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

“

This fellowship is unique in building individual capacity while leveraging a network of passionate young African professionals dedicated to driving meaningful conservation action—not only within our communities and across Africa, but with a ripple effect that contributes to global environmental impact.

IGNATIUS KUDAKWASHE MAERESA
2024 AWF-Wall Policy Fellow



IGNATIUS KUDAKWASHE MAERESA

AWF-Wall Policy Fellow Ignatious Maeresa is the founder of a Zimbabwe-based nonprofit that simplifies complex conservation issues for youth in remote communities. To date, he has partnered with 200 youth champions in rural communities in western Zimbabwe near Hwange National Park. Skills and experience gained from his 2024 fellowship have helped him in his efforts to introduce them to global conservation frameworks like the Ramsar and CITES conventions, linking local action to international policy. Maeresa’s ambitions don’t stop there. He is also advocating to criminalize intentional or negligent human destruction of the environment, known as “ecocide,” and for the legal recognition of Indigenous peoples’ rights under Zimbabwe’s conservation law.

Conservation Leadership

Fiscal Year 2025

AWF-Wall Fellowships are designed for young conservation professionals under 35.

108 early to mid-career managers and policy professionals in AWF-Wall Youth Leadership community

127

filmmakers and journalists in AWF’s African Conservation Voices network

~52K

school-age children introduced to conservation education



KENYA: AWF-WALL POLICY FELLOWS WORKSHOP AT AWF HEADQUARTERS.

PARTNERING WITH GLOBAL ACTORS

KENYA: GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT
TRAINING AT AWF HEADQUARTERS.

“

The African Wildlife Foundation has been a vital partner, representing a true meeting of missions to amplify the impact of GEF investments across Africa. Through our collaboration, AWF is directly empowering our operational focal points by enhancing their project oversight and monitoring capabilities. This ensures greater national ownership and maximizes the tangible results of GEF resources. The work is crucial for optimizing GEF resources to deliver transformational impact for both people and nature.

CARLOS MANUEL RODRÍGUEZ
CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility (2020-2025)



KENYA: GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT TRAINING AT AWF HEADQUARTERS.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the largest funder of biodiversity conservation in the world. Its financing helps developing countries address complex challenges and work towards meeting international environmental goals. Over the past 30 years, the GEF has invested US \$7.7 billion in Africa and leveraged more than \$50 billion from other sources. Around \$1.7 billion is being discussed in the current round of funding. In early 2025, AWF and the GEF began a partnership to ensure that these investments translate into tangible, lasting environmental progress on the ground.

Capitalizing on AWF's grassroots reach, on-the-ground conservation experience, and influence, the GEF approached us to

ensure that GEF leads for individual African governments, known as “operational focal points,” are supported in two ways: First, in aligning GEF programming in their countries with commitments under global environmental conventions. Second, in leveraging GEF funding to drive integration and the mainstreaming of environmental issues into development priorities and economic growth agendas.

This year, we engaged operational focal points from 29 countries. One of them, Barthélemy Lamba from the Central African Republic, shared what the collaboration between AWF and GEF has meant for him.

Continue to read his interview >



BARTHÉLEMY LAMBA, GEF FOCAL POINT FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR).

What does an operational focal point do?

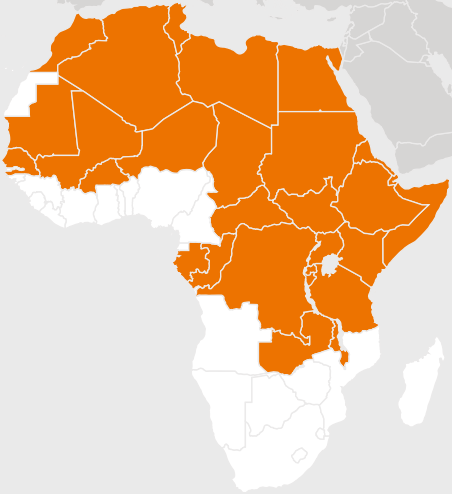
Barthélemy Lamba: The operational focal point (OFP) is the interface between a country and the GEF Secretariat, in my case, the Central African Republic. The OFP strengthens communication so GEF-supported work is visible, and we help agencies and national stakeholders integrate evaluation recommendations so projects are implemented effectively. This includes coordinating environmental projects and maintaining close liaison with national partners—including line ministries, technical and financial partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

What problem was the GEF trying to solve by partnering with AWF?

Lamba: In practice, OFPs can face constraints in supervising GEF portfolios—particularly when there is limited funding for oversight, or when implementing agencies are unable (or reluctant) to share project data and information. That is why strengthening the OFPs’ supervisory role is essential.

Through this partnership, the GEF worked with AWF to support OFPs so that we can effectively supervise the portfolios of GEF-funded projects. This aligns with the GEF-8 Country Engagement Strategy, which aims to empower countries to take ownership of their portfolios and maximize impact. For us, this support came at exactly the right time. It helps OFPs operate with greater autonomy so supervision is more effective—and funds reach the intended direct beneficiaries.

AWF & GEF Operational Focal Point Partners



Algeria	Egypt	Mauritania	South Sudan
Burkina Faso	Eritrea	Morocco	Sudan
Burundi	Ethiopia	Niger	Tanzania
CAR	Gabon	Republic of Congo	Tunisia
Chad	Kenya	Rwanda	Uganda
DRC	Libya	Senegal	Zambia
Djibouti	Malawi	Somalia	
	Mali		

What has changed since you attended the first training in April 2025?

Lamba: The training provided OFPs with practical, up-to-date tools to strengthen oversight of essential environmental projects. Informal sessions during training helped the OFPs improve their collaboration and communication between line ministries, project managers, implementing agencies, and themselves. I am now better equipped to carry out control missions and conduct follow-up that supports accountability, transparency, and the long-term sustainability of GEF investments.

Looking to the future, how do you see the role and importance of GEF investments evolving in your country?

Lamba: The GEF continues to evolve from a global environmental funding mechanism into a catalyst and innovator. Its investments will focus more on climate mitigation and resilience while integrating private-sector participation. When this happens, there will be an emphasis on integrated solutions that link biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, and sustainable development.



HOW CONSERVATION CONTRIBUTES TO PEACE & STABILITY

“

At first, the villagers were reluctant to join or listen to us. But we didn't give up. We kept the dialogue open, and now people trust us.

OUMMA DJAODJI
TANGO leader and herder in Faro, Cameroon

CAMEROON: OUMMA DJAODJI SHARES INFORMATION ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION WITH WOMEN IN THE FARO LANDSCAPE.





DRC: ARDO MOUSSA

In northern Cameroon’s transboundary Faro landscape, Fulani herder Oumma Djaoudji is part of an AWF-supported initiative that has reduced conflict between livestock herders and local farmers by a remarkable 62 percent—a model that AWF is scaling up in areas such as the Bili-Uélé Protected Area Complex in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Faro is home to diverse wildlife, including elephants and Central and West Africa’s largest hippo population. Seasonal livestock herding, or transhumance, drives overgrazing and deforestation, threatens wildlife, damages crops, and fuels competition for resources.

Djaoudji is one of four women nominated by her community to lead the Association for Peaceful Management of Transhumance (TANGO), a local diplomacy network that mediates conflict between herders and community members through two-way communication and culturally informed outreach. Groups traditionally in conflict over land use are collaborating to establish corridors and improved grazing areas for seasonal cattle pasture and passage.

With funding from the European Union’s NaturAfrica program, AWF recently introduced the TANGO approach in the Bili-Uélé landscape in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, where conflicts have been driven by pastoralist herders and refugees escaping conflict and climate stress.

Combining expert knowledge, field intelligence, and aerial survey observations, AWF is partnering with the DRC’s wildlife authorities to map pastoralist routes and rangeland across borders. This provides a data-based starting point for engaging with the herders and recommending alternative areas for pasture.

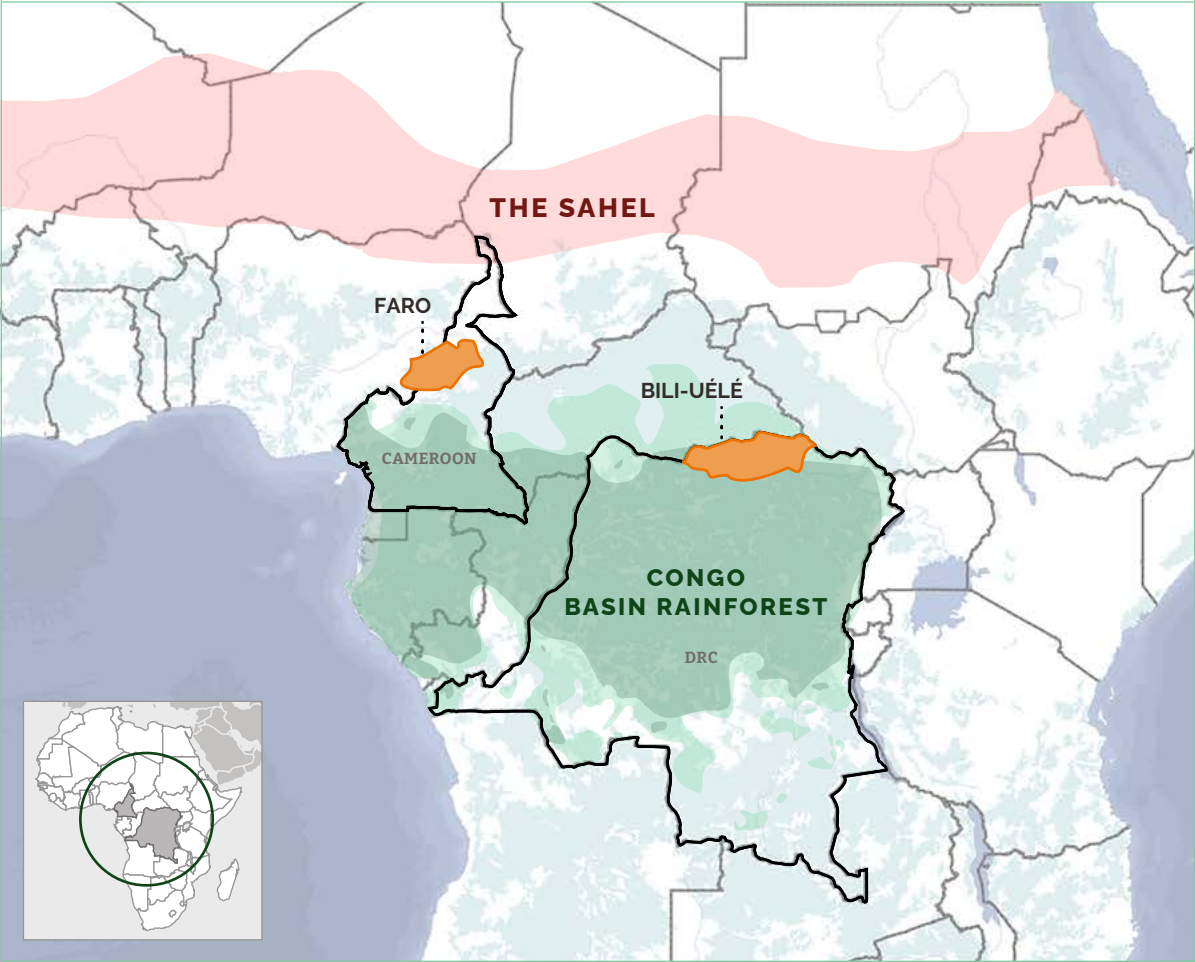
“We don’t have to reinvent the wheel,” says Godefroid Azanga, AWF Transhumance Agent in the DRC. “We are inspired by Faro’s experiences. Little by little, we will reach their level.”

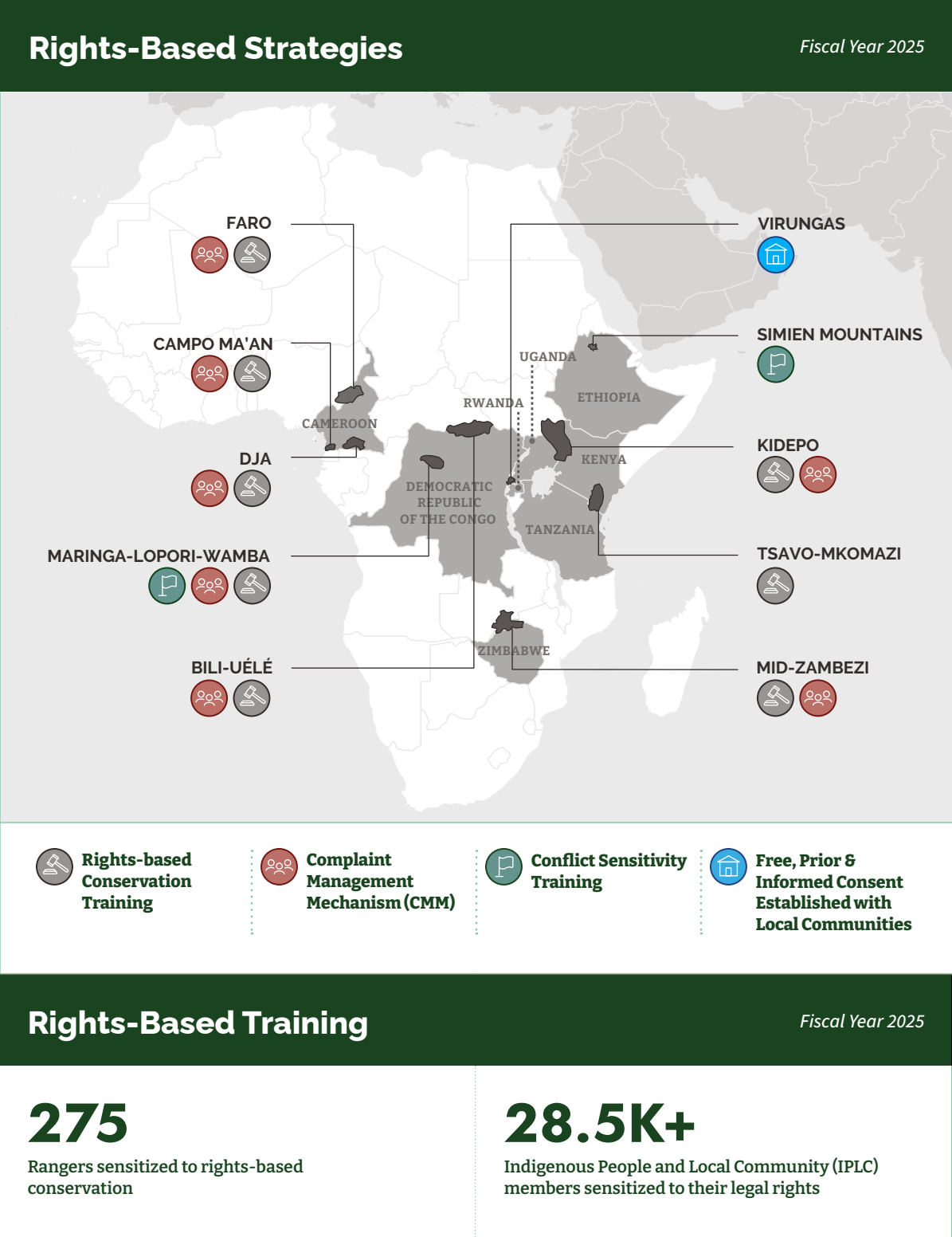
Herder Ardo Moussa left the Central African Republic in 2017 only to come into conflict with local communities in Bili-Uélé. He says the TANGO partnership reduces tension by helping him understand the importance of keeping his animals out of protected areas and community land.

“We are called upon to respect the areas as laid out,” he says. “May the protected area remain for [the wildlife authority]. In the same way that we watch over our animals, they also watch over theirs.”

The Sahel & The Congo Basin Rainforest

Impacts of climate change are causing traditional livestock herders across Africa to search for new grazing grounds. For herders in the Sahel, an area rapidly becoming more arid, this means moving south toward the humid savannas that border the Congo Basin rainforest. That search for new grazing land creates conflict with local farmers and wildlife authorities, with seasonal incursions of livestock that damage crops, degrade farmland, and encroach on protected areas.





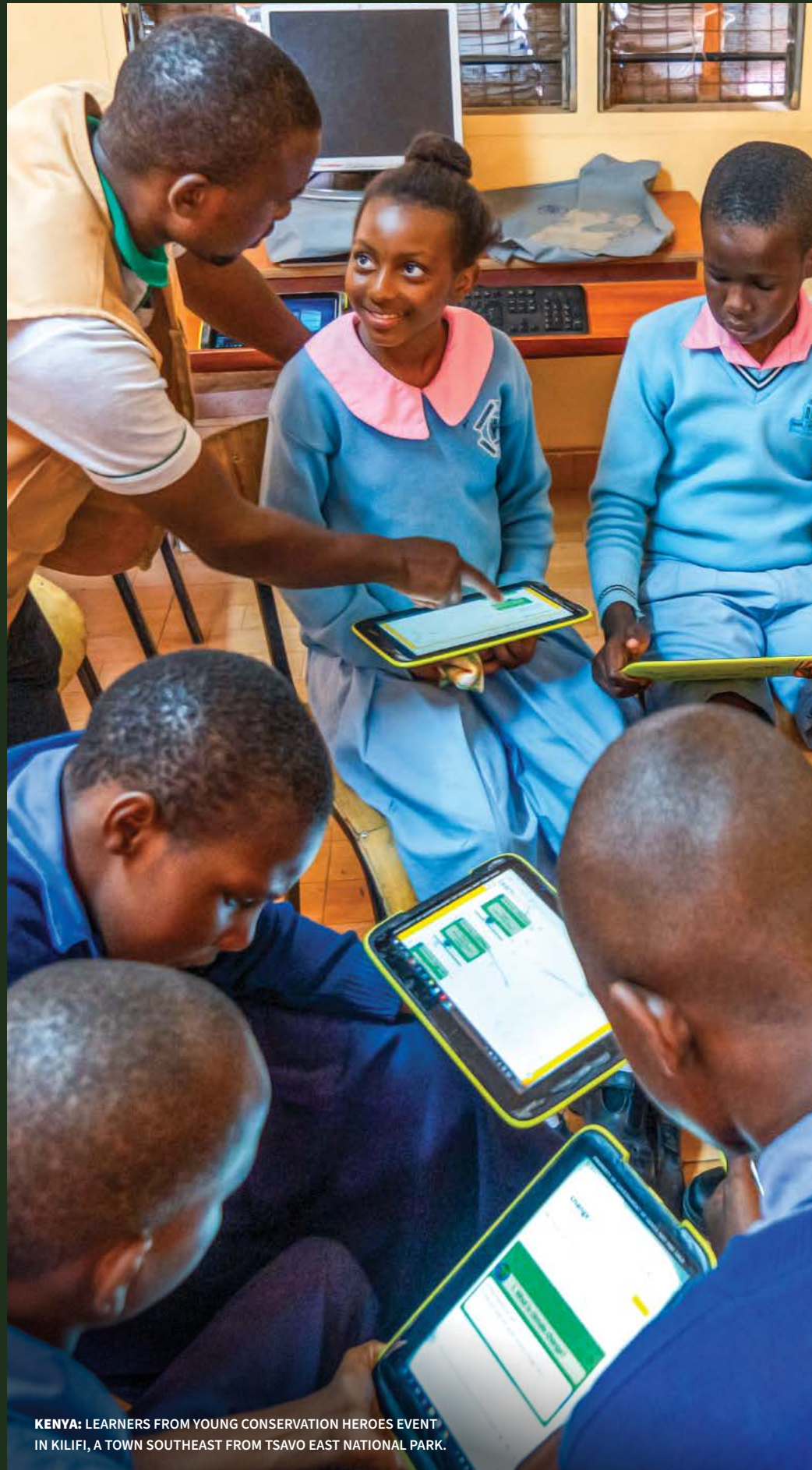
“

We're inspired by how AWF is tackling these issues [managing conflict in conservation] on the ground, institutionally, and in policy circles. I really have big hopes for the future because we're not just collaborators, we're becoming allies—helping to show others across Africa and beyond the huge potential in connecting conservation and peace.

HELOISE HEYER
Conflict Sensitivity Lead & International
Partnerships Manager, PeaceNexus Foundation

CAMEROON: FARO LANDSCAPE

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS



KENYA: LEARNERS FROM YOUNG CONSERVATION HEROES EVENT IN KILIFI, A TOWN SOUTHEAST FROM TSAVO EAST NATIONAL PARK.



A continental movement was born when AWF helped to establish Africa's first wildlife club in Kenya in the late 1960s. Today, there are thousands of clubs across Africa, reaching primary and secondary school children through after-school programs. Recently, AWF built on our early legacy, establishing a national conservation education partnership with the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (WCK). The pilot program launched this year in 137 schools in the Tsavo landscape, significantly increasing WCK's reach in this rural area. Central to the partnership is **Dr. George Njagi**, who leads WCK's national efforts to strengthen conservation education and environmental awareness among young learners. Dr. Njagi focuses on designing and delivering impactful school and community programs to build knowledge, inspire action, and nurture future conservation leaders.

“

Through our collaboration [with AWF], we have expanded our outreach to more than 132 schools. The partnership continues to play a vital role in nurturing young environmental champions, promoting responsible stewardship of natural resources, and increasing awareness on wildlife and habitat protection across Kenya.

DR. GEORGE NJAGI, PH.D.
Conservation Programs Director,
Wildlife Clubs of Kenya



For former farmer **Mukarwego Agnes**, living next to Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park meant constant conflict with crop-destroying wildlife. Conservation seemed like a burden, not an opportunity. As part of Rwanda's strategy to increase gorilla habitat in the park while building a regional green economy, her family was among those identified for relocation to a modern village.

Initially, the relocation plan was met with skepticism. However, that perception began to change with targeted training and community engagement initiatives led by AWF in partnership with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB). A business incubation program helped Agnes take the leap from farming into agribusiness. She now purchases potatoes from local farmers, stores them, and sells them in bulk at wholesale. She started her business by investing in roughly 200 kilograms of Irish potatoes. Through a revolving fund backed by AWF and RDB, Agnes secured a loan that more than doubled her initial investment. Today, she pays her children's school fees from the profits—and no longer faces daily competition with wildlife.

“

Training on how to start small businesses for personal development [helped me realize]... that with the park's expansion, access to land would become more limited. That understanding pushed me to shift my focus to buying produce...and selling it at the wholesale level.

MUKARWEGO AGNES
Local resident near Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda

“

Cocoa is very important to me...Last year, I got really sick. [Money left after paying our bills] went to my health, but we still knew that all the children could finish the school year without being sent away because we used money from [the cocoa harvest] to pay their fees.

MANGO'O CLAUTILDE
Farmer in Dja landscape, Cameroon



Farmers **Sere Etienne** and **Mango'o Clautilde** live near Cameroon's Dja Faunal Reserve, where their annual cocoa harvest brought in more than US \$3,000 last year, almost twice as much as the average per capita income in Cameroon. The future looks bright for the couple, who aspire to expand their family farm, combining traditional knowledge with AWF-supported training to restore degraded land and cultivate cocoa under native tree cover. Income from farming is supplemented by Clautilde's production of natural soap, which she learned to produce as part of AWF's livelihood trainings and now sells locally. Etienne directly partners on conservation action by joining eco-guards on patrol to deter illegal logging and poaching.



With an average annual output of around 130,000 tons, the Kilombero Sugar Company produces 40 percent of Tanzania's sugar. AWF has partnered with Kilombero Sugar Company since 2015, through the IUCN-SUSTAIN program, working to balance agricultural expansion with watershed restoration and wildlife corridor protection.

As a Social Liaison Specialist at the company, **Mebo Kanyabuha** works with sugarcane growers and community stakeholders to strengthen farmer capacity, improve land use practices, and increase environmental compliance. This year, Kanyabuha engaged with more than 11,000 smallholder farmers through co-ops strengthened by AWF. Smallholder farms contributed 53 percent of the company's total cane supply in 2024.

“

Our partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has significantly strengthened our environmental stewardship and community engagement efforts. Together, we have implemented initiatives such as planting vetiver grass to prevent soil erosion, protecting critical water sources, and promoting more sustainable land use practices. AWF has also been a key sponsor of the Kilombero Farmers' Day for over four years, enabling us to equip farmers with innovative technologies and climate-smart sugarcane farming approaches.

MEBO KANYABUHA
Social Liaison Specialist, Kilombero Sugar Company

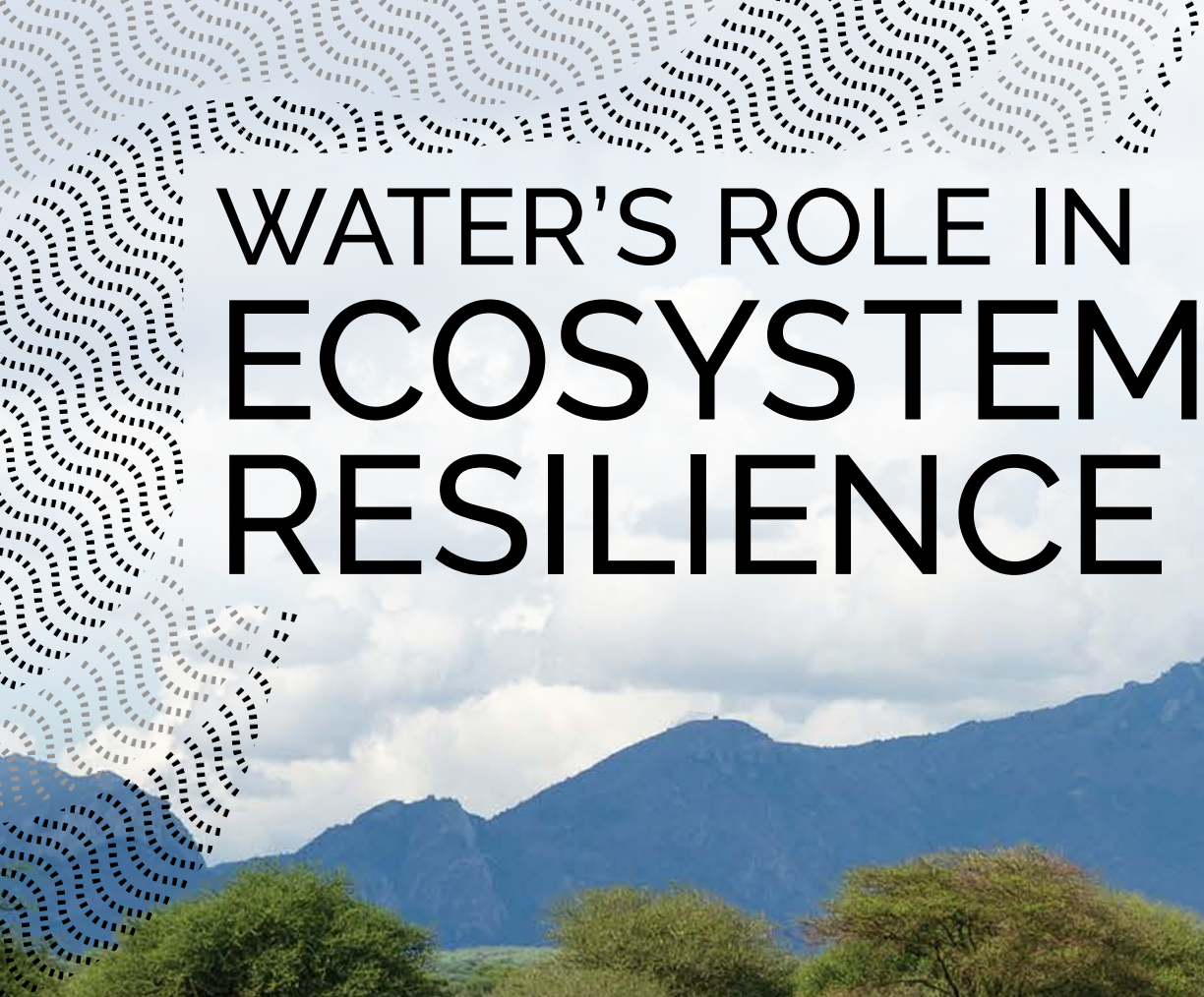


In 2022, AWF partnered with conservation leadership across Africa on a big idea—establishing a network for leaders to share learnings and advocate for the needs of Africa's 8,932 official protected and conserved areas. This group, known as the Africa Protected Area Directors (APAD) has emerged as a powerful platform for connecting protected area leaders from across the continent. Today, AWF acts as secretariat, supporting leaders like **Omer Ntougou Ndoutoume**. Ndoutoume is Executive Secretary for Gabon's national park system, where he oversees administrative, financial, and operational management and the implementation of conservation policies. As a Co-Chair of APAD, he contributes to the strategic coordination of the network in addition to representing the interests of protected area directors in Central Africa and promoting regional cooperation for the sustainable management of protected areas.

“

The impact of my participation in the APAD network has been the strengthening of management perspectives for protected areas in Central Africa and Gabon, improved coordination of conservation policies, and increased visibility of biodiversity issues across the continent.

OMER NTOUGOU NDOUTOUME
Executive Secretary, National Agency for National Parks, Gabon & Co-Chair, APAD



WATER'S ROLE IN ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

“

AWF puts people at the center of conservation in ways that ensure communities are part of sustainable, landscape-scale solutions. Their emphasis on partnership with local leadership and strategies that meet the long term needs of both people and wildlife were important criteria for our investment.

MARY MBENGE

Program Manager, Environment & Climate Change, Embassy of Sweden, Development Cooperation Section, Kenya



KENYA: A DESILTED WATER PAN IN LUMO CONSERVANCY, SERVING AS A VITAL WATER ACCESS POINT FOR WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK.



TANZANIA: NAOMI KASSIM MAYOWERA, CENTER RIGHT, WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF A LOCAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION IN KILOMBERO.

Water defines life in East Africa. Across the region, climate change-driven drought and flooding, combined with rising competition for scarce water take their toll on fragile ecosystems and the people and wildlife depending on them. For AWF, addressing these challenges means deepening partnerships and driving innovative, community-led solutions to ensure the life-sustaining water keeps flowing.

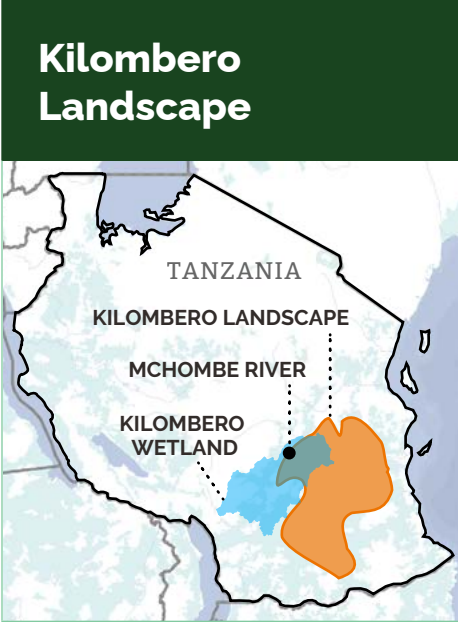
In south-central Tanzania, the Kilombero Valley supplies fresh water to more than 400,000 people and is part of a fertile region producing much of the nation's food supply. It is both a wetland of international importance and a critical wildlife corridor for elephants. Rivers like the Mchombe are vital to the valley's biodiversity and agriculture.

More than 15 years ago, AWF recognized that conservation in Kilombero is inseparable from the health of its water systems. Through the IUCN-led Sustainability and Inclusion Strategy for Growth Corridors in Africa (SUSTAIN-Africa) program, AWF has supported land use planning to maintain key wildlife corridors and partnered with local agribusiness, farmers, and communities to adopt sustainable agriculture and river restoration practices.

For farmer Naomi Kassim Mayowera, whose land lies along the Mchombe's banks, the river is essential for survival. "Without the river, we have nothing," she says. "It nourishes our farms, animals, and families. Protecting it means protecting our future."

Since 2021, Mayowera has been a member of a local water users association whose 30 members share a single mission: conserving the Mchombe River. Water user associations like Mayowera's are part of AWF's watershed health and recovery strategy. They monitor the river's health, tracking water temperature, pollution indicators, and insect behavior as early warning signs of trouble. Mayowera's community has also embraced reforestation, planting more than 1,400 indigenous trees along the riverbank to prevent soil erosion and create a natural buffer for the water.

"The Mchombe River is the heart of our community," explains Leonard Kisihanga, chair of the Water Resource Committee. "By protecting it, we're not just safeguarding our livelihoods—we're ensuring the future of our children and our wildlife."



KENYA: THE TSAVO LANDSCAPE IS PART OF A VAST, SEMI-ARID REGION IN SOUTHEASTERN KENYA, CHARACTERIZED BY DRY BUSHLAND, VOLCANIC ROCKY OUTCROPS, AND PLAINS.

Several hundred kilometers north of the Kilombero Valley, the transboundary (Kenya and Tanzania) Tsavo-Mkomazi landscape also faces water stress, particularly after severe droughts in 2020 and 2022. The landscape is home to Tsavo National Park, Kenya's largest protected area, supporting a third of the nation's elephants and nearly a fifth of its black rhinos. Tens of thousands of people rely on the landscape's natural resources. Climate change has brought unpredictable rainfall, shrinking wet seasons, soaring temperatures, and prolonged dry spells. Deforestation in the Taita and Chyulu Hills—source of 60 percent of Tsavo National Park's water—has diminished water flow to wildlife in the park.

With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Tui Foundation, AWF is partnering with local leaders, communities, and local organizations to restore water systems and consequently improve water security for people and wildlife alike.

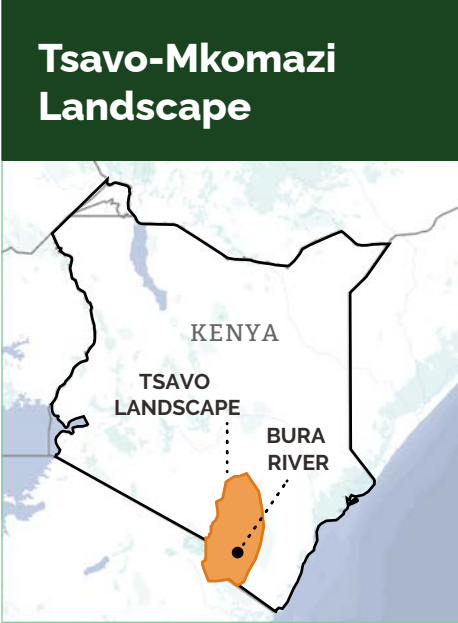
One local leader is Simon Mwakio, chief of a farming community in the Taita Hills. Mwakio has made it his mission to help restore the Bura River, which originates in hilltop forests and eventually flows into the Lumo Conservancy, a vital lowland corridor linking Tsavo West National Park to Tsavo East. He believes communities such as his must be custodians of the landscape, not bystanders to its decline.

AWF is working with Mwakio and others to reactivate the river's Water Resource Users Association and the Vuria Community Forest Association, supporting the local leadership

needed to sustain long-term restoration. In the forest near the source of the river, solar lamps have been introduced, improving villagers' lives while reducing their reliance on firewood.

Fruit trees planted along the Bura's banks are decreasing erosion, and association members are clearing waterways diverted or clogged by silt and undergrowth. Improved water flow benefits farmers along the river, and more water reaches wildlife in Lumo Conservancy—all outcomes that affirm Chief Mwakio's message of resilience. "These developments show how collective action can secure [our] future...though there is still more to be done," he says. "Climate change is real, but together we can heal our land."

AWF Landscape Director Kenneth Kimitei shares that optimism. "I've been here 20 years," he says. "In the next decade, I foresee a shift in how we use water. If the river can reach the lowlands again—sustaining wildlife and people—that's a bright future."





INDEX OF OUR WORK

AWF works for Africa’s people and wildlife through partnerships and integrated strategies designed to link conservation and development.

Meeting Global Targets

Many of our programs directly contribute to meeting Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets and specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are identified by number in this index.



The **Global Biodiversity Framework** is a set of recommendations and goals finalized in Montreal, Canada in 2022 during the 15th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15). It was signed by 196 countries and is guiding much of the world’s global investments in conservation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Plan and Manage All Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss | 14. Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level |
| 2. Restore 30% of All Degraded Ecosystems | 15. Businesses Assess, Disclose, and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts |
| 3. Conserve 30% of Land, Waters, and Seas | 16. Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices to Reduce Waste and Overconsumption |
| 4. Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts | 17. Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology |
| 5. Ensure Sustainable, Safe, and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species | 18. Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion Per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity |
| 6. Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact | 19. Mobilize \$200 Billion Per Year for Biodiversity From All Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance |
| 7. Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity | 20. Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity |
| 8. Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience | 21. Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action |
| 9. Manage Wild Species Sustainably to Benefit People | 22. Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for All |
| 10. Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry | 23. Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action |
| 11. Restore, Maintain, and Enhance Nature’s Contributions to People | |
| 12. Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity | |
| 13. Increase the Sharing of Benefits From Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information, and Traditional Knowledge | |

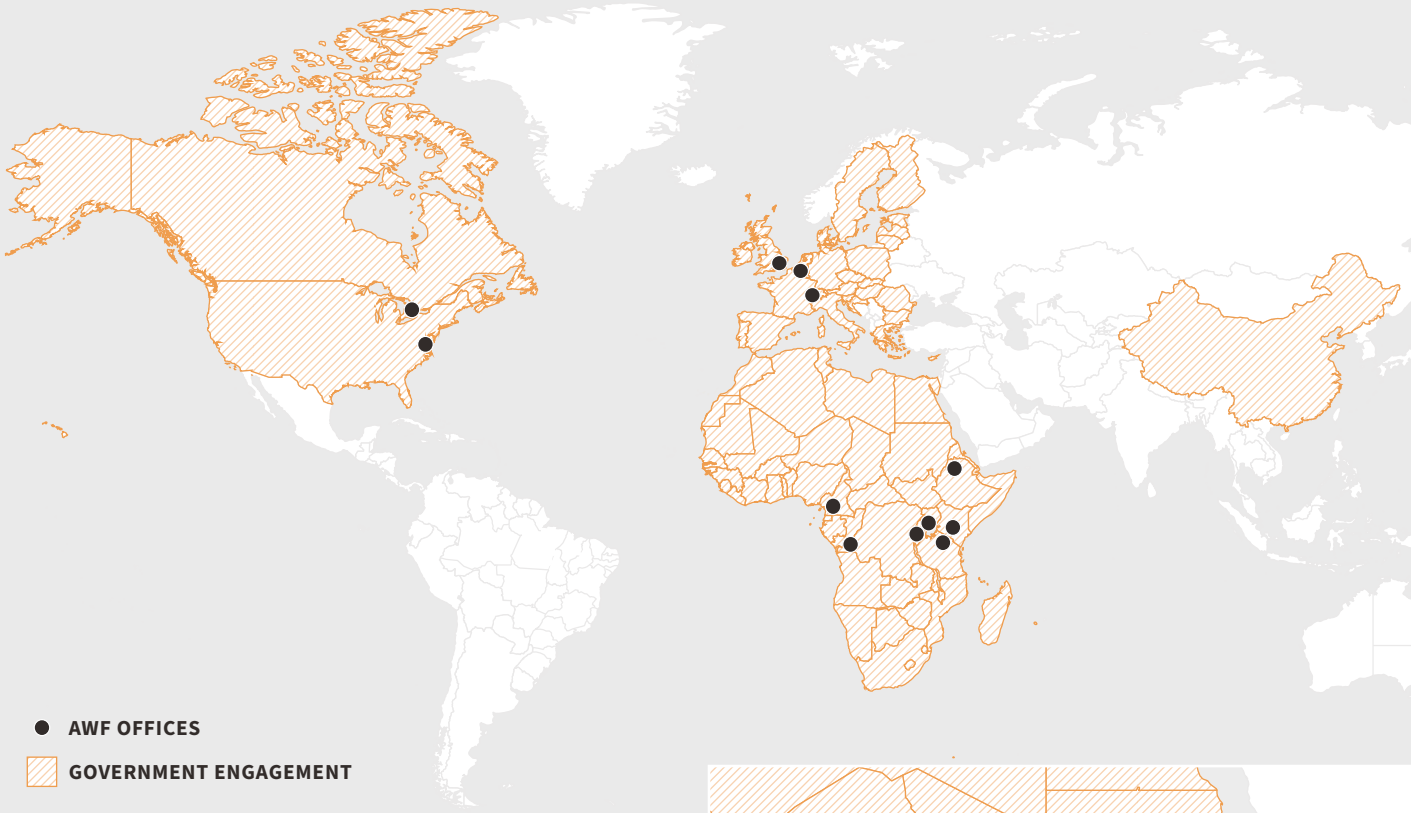


The **United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals**, or **SDGs**, are part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and illustrate the connections between environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainable development.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. No Poverty | 10. Reduced Inequalities |
| 2. Zero Hunger | 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| 3. Good Health and Well-Being | 12. Responsible Consumption and Production |
| 4. Quality Education | 13. Climate Action |
| 5. Gender Equality | 14. Life Below Water |
| 6. Clean Water and Sanitation | 15. Life on Land |
| 7. Affordable and Clean Energy | 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions |
| 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth | 17. Partnerships for the Goals |
| 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure | |

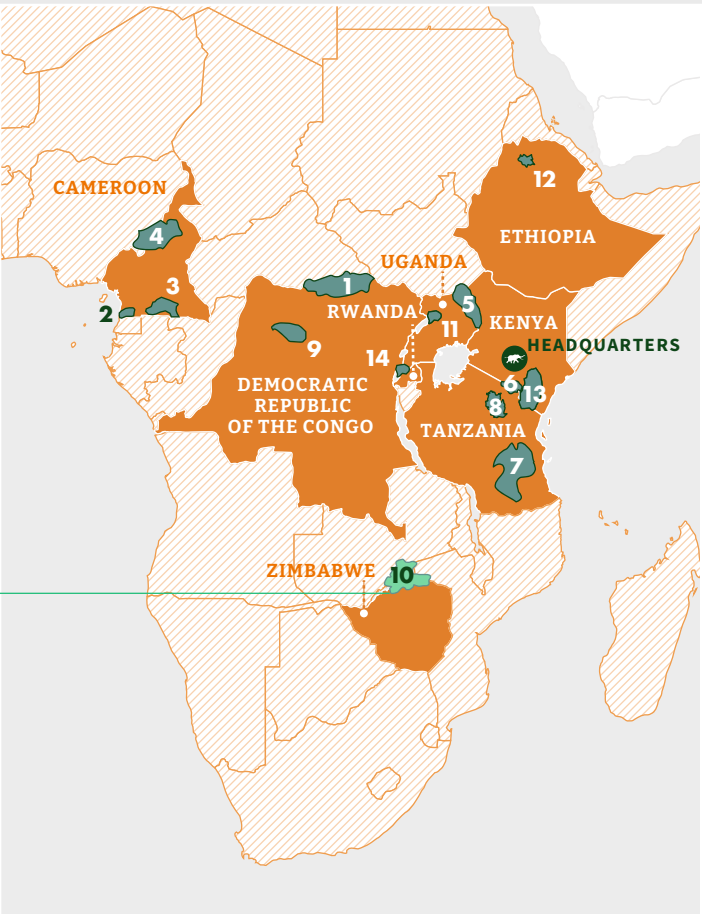
Where We Work

Fiscal Year 2025



Landscapes with Field Programs

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 BILI-UÉLÉ | 8 MAASAI STEPPE |
| 2 CAMPO-MA’AN | 9 MARINGA-LOPORI-WAMBA |
| 3 DJA | 10 MID-ZAMBEZI VALLEY |
| 4 FARO | 11 MURCHISON FALLS |
| 5 KIDEPO | 12 SIMIEN MOUNTAINS |
| 6 KILIMANJARO | 13 TSAVO-MKOMAZI |
| 7 KILOMBERO | 14 VIRUNGAS |



With the conclusion of our co-management agreement in Mana Pools National Park in March 2025, AWF transitioned away from on-the-ground work in Zimbabwe’s Mid-Zambezi Valley. Our work with Zimbabwe’s government and local partners on strategies to integrate growth and conservation regionally and at pan-African levels continues.



Biodiversity Economies

AWF helps local communities and governments unlock value and benefits from wildlife and habitat conservation. We support countries in the recovery of nature-based tourism and landscape restoration, in diversification of sustainable livelihoods, in private-sector engagement for building sustainable economies that include wildlife, and in the national valuation of biodiversity as a sector contributing to GDP. In addition, we provide entrepreneurial and business development training for nature-based businesses and livelihoods across many of our landscape programs.

GBF: 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20
SDG: 1, 7, 8, 10, 12, 15

Climate-Smart Agriculture

We support smallholder farmers to improve yields, access markets, and reduce post-harvest losses in ways that protect and restore forest, wetland, and grassland systems as part of an integrated landscape approach that delivers for people and wildlife.

Locations: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe

Microenterprise Incubation

We support budding entrepreneurs with the skills they need to develop and invest in new business ideas that link sustainable resource management to economic development opportunities. This work is particularly impactful for remote rural communities, which are often hard to reach through traditional business incubation programs.

Locations: Cameroon, Rwanda

Investment Blueprints

As part of our signature landscape approach, we produce investment blueprints that shape opportunities for enterprise solutions to deliver on conservation and development outcomes. These blueprints help local leaders engage business partners and leverage private finance to deliver jobs and economic growth while protecting and restoring natural resources.

Locations: Kenya, Rwanda, Zimbabwe

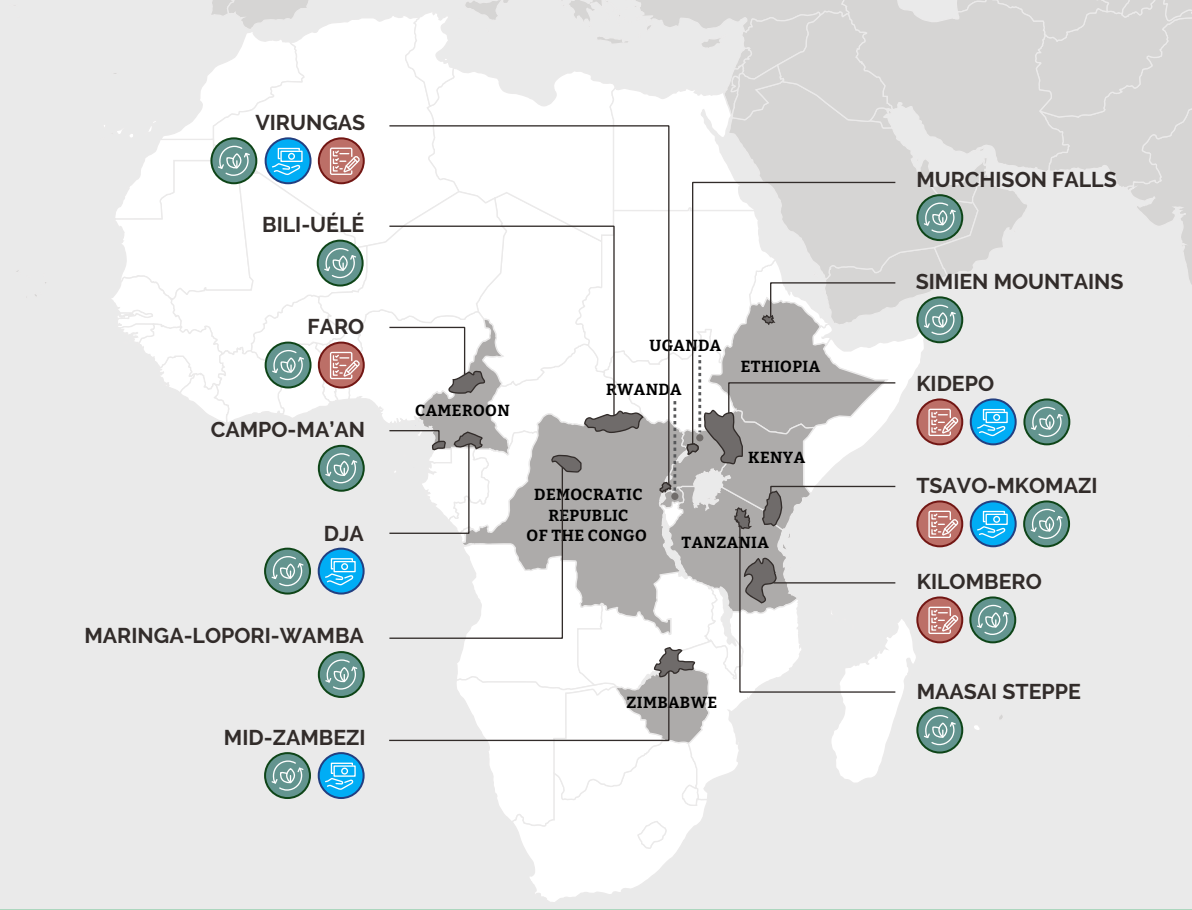
Business Engagement

We partner with businesses committed to contributing to conservation outcomes. Their business acumen helps us to innovate and scale ways of harnessing markets to sustain ecosystems and biodiversity, incentivize the protection and restoration of wildlife habitat, and reduce threats to biodiversity from human activities. Naturally, this work is often tied to Investment Blueprints.

Locations: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe

Biodiversity Economies

Fiscal Year 2025



Entrepreneurial Training

Entrepreneurial training involves equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills, and mindset needed to identify nature-friendly business opportunities, take risks, innovate, and effectively manage enterprises. Generally, it includes topics such as business planning, marketing, finance, and management.

Enterprise

An enterprise refers to a business or organization created to produce goods or provide services, often with the aim of generating profit or achieving specific social and ecological objectives. Enterprises can range from small, individual businesses (microenterprises) to larger, more complex organizations.

Sustainable Livelihoods

A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide opportunities for the next generation, while not undermining the natural resource base. Examples of sustainable livelihoods include beekeeping, fish farming, sustainable forestry, community-based natural resource management, and ecotourism.

Leadership

AWF defines a leader as a decision-maker at any level of society who has the power to influence choices that benefit the long-term conservation of wildlife. We support African conservation leadership through a variety of strategies targeted to build individual and institutional capacity to drive positive and durable conservation action.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

African Conservation Voices

The African Conservation Voices program invests in thought leadership through fellowships and training for African filmmakers and journalists. The goal is to increase conservation stories in media that increase awareness of the connections between conservation, sustainable development, and African cultural values. This year, AWF provided environmental reporting training to 18 journalists.

Charlotte Fellows

This program has funded almost 100 fellows from 19 countries since its inception, focusing on offering financial support to qualified staff and students in attaining post-graduate training at the Master’s or Ph.D. degree level. Currently, we support two Charlotte fellows—one from Kenya focusing on lion conservation and one from Ethiopia focusing on Walia ibex.

Conservation Geography

Conservation Geography applies geospatial analysis to support planning, monitoring, and learning across priority landscapes and empowers partners to use geospatial tools. Tools developed by AWF and applied for conservation management include the Degradation Dashboard, which leverages deforestation alerts and near real-time high-resolution satellite imagery to quickly identify ecosystem risks and plot solutions, and TRACTS Sites, which integrates near real-time data streams from field and remote sources to monitor protected areas.

Global Policy and Governance

We bring Africa together to advocate for biodiversity conservation as an essential priority through partnerships with civil society organizations, youth networks, Africa protected area agencies, and national focal points of African governments to influence policy decisions at local, national, regional, pan-African, and global levels. As part of this effort, we support African networks such as the Africa Protected Area Directors, the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance, and the African Group of Negotiators for the Convention on Biological Diversity and Wildlife. We facilitate stakeholder engagement and foster connections with international conservation organizations to address conservation challenges. Additionally, we support the convening of conferences, workshops, and meetings with stakeholders to drive dialogue and build consensus for action.

Counter Wildlife Trafficking

The Counter Wildlife Trafficking program directly supports national wildlife authorities, prosecutors, judges, and rangers with training and resources to deter, detect, investigate, and prosecute wildlife crime.

Wildlife Investigation and Emerging Crimes

This program is targeted to police officers, prosecutors, customs officers, and investigators to help them identify, investigate, and gather evidence of wildlife crime. This year, AWF trained investigators from Ethiopia and Kenya and supported special investigations in the DRC, Kenya, and Tanzania. In addition, AWF supported the Kenya Wildlife Service to establish a digital forensic laboratory.

Wildlife Judicial and Prosecutorial Assistance

This program is targeted to community scouts, field rangers, investigators, prosecutors, and judicial officers to ensure the proper application of the law in enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crime. This year, AWF delivered trainings in Angola, the DRC, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

Canine Detection Units

Operational support for canine detection teams was provided to units in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda. This involves training detection dogs, overseeing their welfare, and training dog handlers within wildlife authorities.

Youth Leadership

AWF-Wall Fellowships

AWF offers two nine-month fellowships specifically targeting African professionals under age 35: the **AWF-Wall Leadership and Management Fellowship Program** and the **AWF-Wall Policy Fellowship Program**, both supported by the Wall Family Foundation. Each enrolls 15 fellows annually, building their leadership skills through training, networking, and hands-on professional experience. The community of current and past fellows stands at 108, representing 31 African countries. The leadership fellowship focuses on self-leadership, leading purpose-driven teams, and organizational leadership. The policy fellowship focuses on international biodiversity governance, specifically on building skills, knowledge and networks to engage in multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Young Conservation Heroes

This after-school program introduces conservation to primary and secondary school children. This year, with the support of Bob and Emmy King, a national partnership with the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya was launched in the Tsavo landscape, with plans to scale the partnership to wildlife clubs in other countries. We are also providing conservation education to elementary school students as part of conservation agreements with communities in certain landscapes. Schools included Adsig Primary School (Ethiopia), Ilima Primary School (DRC), Kidepo Primary School (Uganda), and Manyara Ranch Primary School (Tanzania).

Landscape-level Programs

Parks and other conservation areas play important roles as anchors for healthy wildlife populations, but by themselves they can’t conserve full ecosystems. A mosaic of lands—public, private, and community-owned—together make up larger conservation “landscapes.” Wildlife corridors and dispersal areas across these landscapes are vital to conserving species such as elephants, lions, and rhinos. They are where our strategies come together.



Bili-Uélé, DRC

Our work in this extremely remote, transboundary landscape in northern DRC is primarily funded by the EU-NaturAfrica program. On the northern edge of the Congo Basin rainforest, Bili-Uélé is a critical transition zone between forest and savanna habitats. The landscape is a patchwork of protected areas, hunting reserves, and community land abutting some of the world’s most dangerous conflict zones. Access to electricity and internet is rare, and the nearest city is an arduous two-day trip away. The people are some of the poorest in the world, but the value of their natural resources is immense.

Through a co-management agreement with the DRC’s wildlife authority, AWF is partnering to improve management and governance of the landscape’s primary protected area, the Bili-Uélé Protected Area Complex.

This year, we made significant strides in strengthening protection, governance, and community engagement in a core area of the complex, the Bili-Mbomu Central Zone. Patrol teams expanded surveillance and consolidated control over key areas, improving rapid response capacity and reducing pressures on sensitive habitats. Law enforcement efforts led to the recovery of illegal weapons, the dismantling of traps, and the safe rescue of trafficked wildlife, reinforcing the landscape’s protection systems.

Ecological monitoring included camera traps deployed across priority habitats, with early signs indicating increased wildlife presence and natural regeneration following reduced livestock pressure in sensitive zones. A temporary research camp currently supports ongoing monitoring and data collection to guide conservation decisions.

Community governance and rights-based approaches have strengthened local ownership. Eco-guards received training in rights-based conservation and legal procedures. Complaint management structures are helping to resolve tensions and build trust between communities and conservation authorities by providing a means to hold authorities accountable.

Infrastructure improvements are enhancing both conservation and community well-being. Repaired bridges along key transport routes have improved mobility for thousands of people, facilitating access to health services, trade, and markets. Livelihood diversification initiatives, including goat and poultry rearing and small-scale vegetable production, are providing sustainable economic opportunities, while analyses of honey and peanut oil value chains are laying the groundwork for future income generation.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 5, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17



Campo Ma’an, Cameroon

This southwestern Cameroon landscape is named after Campo Ma’an National Park located near the Kribi Deepwater Port, a massive Chinese-built megaproject designed to be finished in 2040 as a trade hub for all of Central Africa. Pressures in the region include dams and road development as well as palm oil and rubber plantations.

AWF is supporting sustainable smallholder cocoa, plantain, and rubber farming, along with training farmers on how to monitor rubber plantations for unsustainable practices. We have also contributed to creating a platform for conservation and development stakeholders around the park to share perspectives and voice concerns. This collaborative effort includes the Kribi Port and associated private companies, logging operators, mining companies, and agro-industries. The long-term goal is to raise

awareness of these companies’ impacts on biodiversity through awareness campaigns and the development of a basket fund to finance conservation and sustainable local development.

As part of providing technical assistance to Cameroon’s wildlife authority, we are improving management of Campo Ma’an National Park by strengthening anti-poaching measures and monitoring wildlife. Because park management tools were outdated, AWF has created a task force to review and update the management plan. Our rights-based work established a process for Indigenous peoples and local communities to voice concerns and participate in park management.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17



Dja, Cameroon

This Congo Basin landscape in south-central Cameroon is part of TRIDOM, a vast protected area complex covering parts of Cameroon, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo. Here, AWF is working to strengthen the conservation leadership of Indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society organizations, and traditional authorities. This year, women’s groups received support to advance sustainable farming and forest-based livelihoods, while an environmental education campaign—delivered with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and local partners—helped inspire young people to care for their environment through hands-on tree planting and nursery activities. These efforts are nurturing a new generation of conservation stewards across the landscape.

To reinforce ecosystem protection and expand livelihood opportunities, AWF facilitated a multi-stakeholder forum that brought together government agencies, international partners, and community representatives. The gathering helped align priorities around reducing poaching, tackling deforestation, and strengthening local governance. Follow-up sessions have built on this momentum, ensuring coordinated action among partners. AWF continues to work with villages across

the landscape to identify livelihood needs and provide targeted support to farmers, community enterprises, and local producer groups so they can pursue more sustainable and reliable sources of income.

A rights-based approach is central to AWF’s work. Local committees were established to help communities raise concerns and resolve conflicts, and rangers and officials received training to ensure that law enforcement and conservation activities uphold community rights and promote trust.

Protection of the Dja Reserve itself was strengthened through continued support to patrol teams, improved monitoring tools, and upgraded field equipment. Training in wildlife monitoring and judicial procedures enhanced the capacity of rangers to protect the landscape safely and effectively, while new digital tools are helping conservation staff track trends and respond quickly to threats.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 8, 10, 12, 13



Faro, Cameroon

Straddling the border between Cameroon and Nigeria, Faro National Park forms part of a vast protected areas complex. AWF is building on activities initiated under a five-year ECOFAC-6 program to reduce poaching and strengthen the management of Cameroon’s Faro National Park. With greater security in and around the park, as well as alternative livelihood opportunities for people, wildlife populations of chimpanzees, elephants, and gorillas are remaining stable despite external pressures.

Our strategies include promoting income-generating activities and women’s empowerment using a value chain approach. We support the peaceful management of transhumance with our rights-based TANGO program and invest in continuous capacity building for local stakeholders and institutions, including encouraging collaboration between different groups through various platforms.

As part of an MOU with wildlife authorities, AWF is engaged in a wide range of activities in Faro National Park, including developing the Faro National Park Development and Business Plan and the Eland Derby Faro Landscape Plan, ecological monitoring within the park and surrounding conservation zones, supporting anti-poaching operations, and maintaining trails and infrastructure.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17



Kidepo, Uganda

Located in northern Uganda and crossing into Kenya and South Sudan, the Kidepo landscape includes more than 30 protected and conserved areas. AWF is deepening its impact here through coordinated interventions to improve human-wildlife coexistence, advance sustainable agriculture to strengthen the integrity of the landscape within and adjacent to wildlife corridors, enhance wildlife monitoring and ranger capacity, and improve accountability between authorities and local communities. This included training in AWF’s rights-based approach and establishing community-level grievance committees.

A program supported by the Regenerative Fund for Nature, established by Conservation International, the global luxury group Kering, and Inditex, is engaging more than 2,000 farmers from communities bordering Kidepo National Park to develop a sustainable, inclusive, and biodiversity-compatible value chain for cotton farming. To improve ecological resilience and human-wildlife coexistence in the area, we continued work in rehabilitating water sources by desilting a dam in Kidepo Valley National Park so it is now a reliable dry-season source of water.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17



Kilimanjaro (Amboseli), Kenya

Managing the greater Amboseli ecosystem is essential for the long-term well-being of one of Kenya’s most iconic protected areas, Amboseli National Park. Home to the country’s largest population of “tuskers” (mature male elephants with large tusks), the park lies within one of Kenya’s fastest growing counties, Kajiado County.

Following a presidential directive to transfer management of Amboseli National Park from the Kenya Wildlife Service to Kajiado County, AWF is partnering with the county’s Governor on the development of the Amboseli Ecosystem Integrated Master Plan. The plan responds to long-standing community aspirations to regain stewardship over Amboseli National Park (land historically held by the Maasai people) and provides a framework for balancing conservation with economic opportunity.



Kilombero Valley, Tanzania

The Kilombero Valley landscape in southern Tanzania is part of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor, which produces much of the country’s food. It faces significant ecological challenges due to climate change and unsustainable land use. This year, AWF strengthened our partnership with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute through a new agreement focusing on improving farmer access to research and market opportunities in sustainable cocoa production. We also worked with local authorities to advance community land use planning and develop shared natural resource agreements that guide how forests, grazing areas, and water sources are managed. These efforts are helping to reduce conflict, clarify roles among community institutions, and improve long-term stewardship of more than 70,000 hectares of land.

the landscape. Four community-based organizations received seed funding to advance locally led conservation enterprises, demonstrating how nature-positive business ideas can strengthen both livelihoods and environmental management. Thousands of farmers participated in training on sustainable agriculture, beekeeping, and fish farming, helping households diversify income while reducing pressure on sensitive ecosystems.

To broaden awareness, AWF is collaborating with local and national media to share stories of community innovation and best practices in sustainable resource management with a wide public audience.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17



Maasai Steppe (Manyara Ranch), Tanzania

This landscape in northeastern Tanzania spans over 22,000 square kilometers and includes Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks. Manyara Ranch, located in one of the most important wildlife corridors between the parks, is a working cattle ranch and conservation area restored by AWF. Last year marked the successful handover by AWF of day-to-day management of the ranch to the community-led Manyara Ranch Management Trust (MRMT). As part of a sustainable transition plan, AWF has continued to invest in the new leadership and provide technical guidance to the management team. The goal is to develop sustainable conservation financing that will enable Manyara Ranch to become self-sustaining within

the next two to three years. Local leadership roles are crucial in empowering local expertise and strengthening the capacity of the MRMT to lead its conservation, tourism, and livestock enterprises, as well as its community development initiatives. AWF is ensuring that the management of the ranch reflects a sustainable, locally-driven approach to conservation, which is central to AWF’s goal of nurturing African leadership in the sector.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17



Maringa-Lopori-Wamba, DRC

This landscape in northwestern DRC is part of the Congo Basin rainforest and includes the Lomako-Yokokala Faunal Reserve and the Iyondji Community Bonobo Reserve. Together, these areas form a critical stronghold for biodiversity and community-managed conservation.

This year, AWF renovated a local public school, the Ilima school, as part of a forest management and conservation agreement with the local community. It has become a central hub for environmental education, engaging young people in stewardship and awareness of their surrounding forests. Also ongoing are rights-based conservation awareness campaigns for local communities along with training for local authorities. Through the community grievance mechanism created as part of this work, five major conflicts were successfully resolved.

AWF has also advanced opportunities for women and youth through the development of business incubation centers in Lomako and Bongandanga. The Lomako center is now complete, offering space for skills development and small enterprise support, while planning for the Bongandanga center is underway.

Partnerships with wildlife authorities remain a priority, particularly for monitoring and protecting wildlife, as well as combating trafficking around the reserves.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 3, 4, 5, 15, 17



Marsabit, Kenya

AWF began work in Marsabit, an arid landscape in northern Kenya, where we engaged communities through education, livelihoods, and ecosystem restoration initiatives. Part of an extinct volcano ecosystem, Marsabit’s hill forests and lakes provide an essential oasis for wildlife and support people living in surrounding drylands.

In schools across the region, wildlife and environmental clubs provide a platform for children to develop conservation knowledge and life skills through the Young Conservation Heroes program. Students participated in hands-on activities, such as kitchen gardening, poultry keeping, and local conservation tours, building a sense of stewardship for their environment.

Women’s groups received support to develop nature-based livelihoods, and community climate awareness was strengthened through outreach sessions that promoted strategies for resilience, including clean energy, sustainable land and water use, alternative livelihoods, and ecological restoration. Tree nurseries established in Hurri Hills, Laisamis, and Arapal are preparing seedlings for planting, supporting both agroforestry and indigenous forest restoration.

Forest conservation also advanced with the establishment of a Community Forest Association in Hurri Hills. Awareness has reached households across multiple villages and user groups are being formed to lead governance. Efforts are underway to build leadership capacity, draft a constitution, and complete registration, paving the way for a comprehensive forest management plan.



Mid-Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe

In March 2025, AWF’s co-management partnership with ZimParks concluded, and AWF closed operations in the landscape. AWF leaves a durable legacy behind, particularly in and around Mana Pools National Park, part of a UNESCO World Heritage protected area and home to a critical elephant population. Starting in 2016, AWF provided direct technical and financial support to ZimParks to manage the park. In recent years, we significantly upgraded infrastructure in the park, improved access to fresh water for rangers and surrounding communities, and supported livelihood and entrepreneurial trainings in communities surrounding the park.

As a result of our collaborative work, elephant poaching in Mana Pools dropped dramatically, from 100 in 2014 to zero by 2020; the first ever Zimbabwe-Zambia joint hippo survey took place along the Zambezi River, and a vision of a collaborative landscape-level conservation approach between Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe was formalized in 2024.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17



Murchison Falls, Uganda

This landscape, located at the northern end of the Albertine Rift Valley, includes Uganda’s largest and oldest conservation area. Interventions here include strengthening ranger and community capacity, improving ecological monitoring, improving human-wildlife coexistence, and addressing threats from illegal wildlife trafficking and poaching through our Counter Wildlife Trafficking programs.

As part of our species work to conserve giraffes and rhinos, we created space for dialogue between local communities and park authorities to better address human-wildlife conflict and participants’ understanding of legal policies and penalties regarding wildlife crime. We are also building the capacity of rangers and community scouts to support a planned relocation of rhinos to Ajai Wildlife Reserve.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 4, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17



Simien Mountains, Ethiopia

Work in this landscape in northern Ethiopia continues to be disrupted by civil unrest. Despite this, as part of AWF’s co-management agreement with wildlife authorities, rangers in Simien Mountains National Park continue to receive patrol support and logistics to enable them to actively monitor the wildlife and natural habitats. Wildlife monitoring data revealed concerning trends in the Walia ibex population, prompting the creation of a Wildlife Ambassadors engagement strategy. Ambassadors drawn from local communities help sensitize peers and collect valuable citizen science data from areas outside the park. Separately, a study on bird diversity in Simien Mountains National Park was completed, revealing 154 bird species recorded during the dry season, including 15 species classified as very rare.

As part of a conservation agreement with the local community, AWF’s support to the Adsige School has progressed with the installation of a greenhouse and kitchen garden to enhance the school meals program, along with improved access to clean water for students and nearby residents. Through school conservation

clubs and activities, AWF continues to inspire future custodians of Ethiopia’s natural heritage. The school is also benefiting from a new solar system and computer equipment.

Community based restoration efforts to strengthen ecosystem resilience and reduce land degradation are ongoing, focusing on forest regeneration, land rehabilitation, and soil erosion control. In partnership with PeaceNexus, the landscape advanced peace and conflict sensitivity through AWF’s rights-based approach, embedding principles of equity, participation, and conflict-aware conservation across field operations. Under this initiative, AWF facilitated dialogue between local church leaders and park management to address illegal construction at holy water sites within the park.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17



Tsavo-Mkomazi, Kenya & Tanzania

The Tsavo-Mkomazi landscape straddles the boundary between Kenya (Tsavo) and Tanzania (Mkomazi). It is one of the world’s largest protected areas. Tsavo is home to over a third of Kenya’s elephants and nearly a fifth of its black rhinos.

AWF continues to support communities, conservancies, and wildlife across the landscape by improving water access, restoring rangelands, and strengthening sustainable livelihoods. Water infrastructure projects, including the rehabilitation of water pans and the installation of solar-powered borehole pumps, provide reliable water sources for both people and wildlife, ensuring that communities can focus on productive activities while wildlife has safe access to critical resources. Rooftop rainwater harvesting and fishpond initiatives further strengthen local food security and reduce pressure on natural water sources.

Forest conservation efforts have focused on strengthening governance through Community Forest Associations, reviewing and developing forest

management plans, and promoting sustainable non-timber value chains. Communities along key rivers are adopting agroforestry and soil conservation practices, while clean energy interventions—including solar systems, biogas, and improved cookstoves—reduce reliance on firewood and help protect forested areas.

Rangeland restoration initiatives, including the use of Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration, are supporting healthier grazing systems, while livestock management plans and feedlot training improve production and efficiency. Livelihoods continue to diversify through drip irrigation and poultry, pig, and greenhouse farming, giving communities more sustainable sources of income and food.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17



Virungas, Rwanda

As part of our pilot project to improve people’s lives and increase habitat for wildlife in Volcanoes National Park, a community land valuation and compensation plan was approved by the Musanze District Council (community leaders of the communities closest to the park). The process included intense socialization of the plan with local communities, applying best practices of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.

We are contributing to economic growth strategies identified in the master plan through a program encouraging the formation of nature-based community businesses. We are also mobilizing resources for climate-resilient agriculture projects, including one focusing on empowering women. Finally, we are supporting the government in developing terms of reference for smart green villages to improve the standard of living for people affected by the park’s expansion.

GBF: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

SDG: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17



Letter from the Chair

When we launched our 10-year strategy in 2020, we could not have predicted a global pandemic or a complete reset of overseas development aid. But those pressures have only served to reinforce the central principle of our theory of change. Africans must lead in defining the future of the continent’s natural heritage.

This year marks the midpoint of the strategy, which is grounded in a belief that the only way to drive sustainable conservation action for African wildlife is through influencing decision-making within African society. Over the past five years that has led to a deliberate focus on building conservation leadership and models that link conservation to the long-term well-being of people.

The hard work our organization has done to realign and reprioritize over those years is paying off. We’ve grown from expenses of just over \$30 million in 2020 to just under \$38 million in 2025, creating a stable foundation for navigating new global realities. These are realities we are well positioned to meet, and I am proud of the leadership role AWF plays on the continent today in supporting African leaders and their institutions in deepening their conservation impact.

As the stories in this annual report demonstrate, our emphasis on partnership with wildlife authorities,

communities, and local organizations is driving meaningful progress for wildlife. AWF’s emphasis on connecting conservation to the aspirations of rural Africans is paying off, as is our rights-based work focusing on improving governance, peace, and stability in areas of conflict.

While ultimately it is Africa’s responsibility to safeguard its natural heritage, we can’t succeed without partners from around the world. Africa’s natural resources are of global importance. How Africa defines the value of wildlife and wild lands matters to anyone who cares about the planet and how it works, understands how conservation can positively influence progress, or simply loves the iconic species that define the continent for so many. Together, we can all be part of building a future for Africa where people and wildlife thrive.

Sincerely,

Larry Green
Chair, AWF Board of Trustees

LARRY GREEN CONCLUDED HIS TENURE AS AWF CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN MARCH 2026 AND CONTINUES TO SERVE AS A TRUSTEE. LAURA KOHLER WAS CONFIRMED AS CHAIR ON MARCH 5, 2026.

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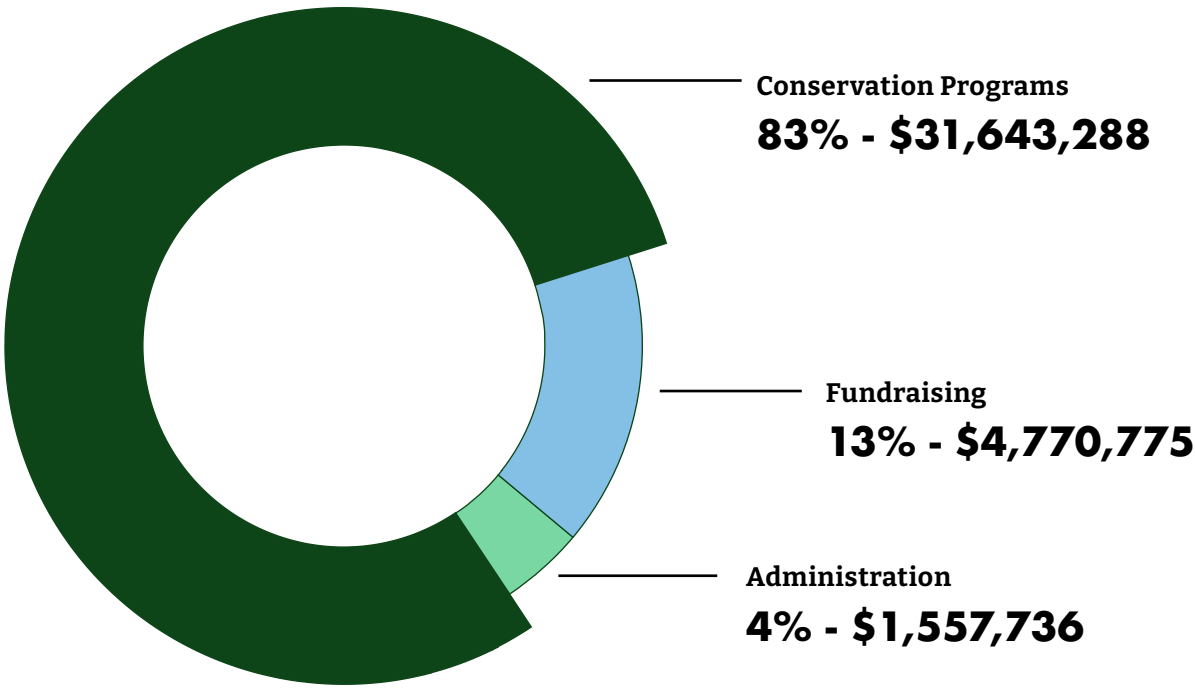
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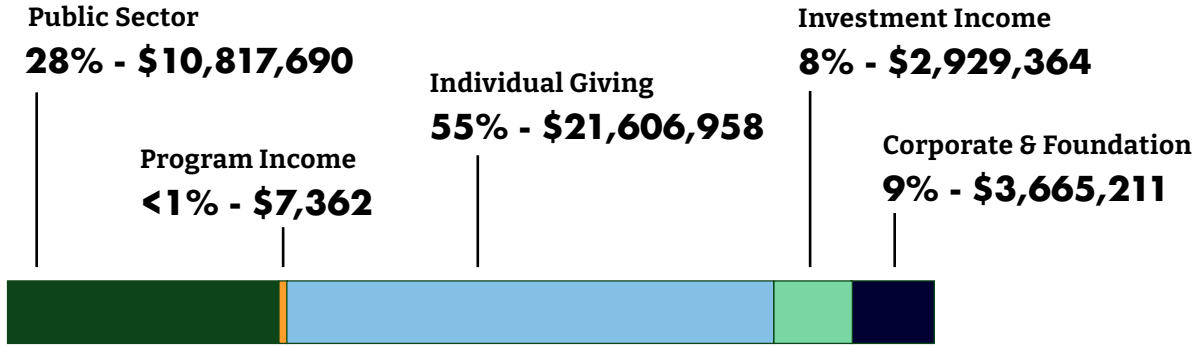
Financials

Since AWF’s beginnings over 60 years ago, we’ve been a responsible steward of your contributions in service to Africa’s wildlife and wild lands.

Organizational Efficiency



Revenue Breakout



Summary of Activities as of June 30, 2025

OPERATING REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Gifts from Individuals	\$16,076,290	\$5,530,668	\$21,606,958
Corporate & Foundation Support	\$608,306	\$2,824,410	\$3,432,716
Public Sector Grants	\$10,817,690	-	\$10,817,690
Events & Other Income	\$7,362	-	\$7,362
In-kind Contributions	\$232,495	-	\$232,495
Restricted Net Assets Utilized	\$8,939,953	(\$8,939,953)	-
Total Operating Revenue	\$36,682,096	(\$584,875)	\$36,097,221
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Conservation Programs	\$29,267,741	-	\$29,267,741
Education & Outreach	\$2,375,547	-	\$2,375,547
Total Program Expenses	\$31,643,288	-	\$31,643,288
Finance & Administration	\$1,557,736	-	\$1,557,736
Fundraising	\$4,770,775	-	\$4,770,775
Total Supporting Services	\$6,328,511	-	\$6,328,511
Total Operating Expenses	\$37,971,799	-	\$37,971,799
Net Investment Income	\$2,328,999	\$600,365	\$2,929,364
Total Non-Operating Activities	\$2,328,999	\$600,365	\$2,929,364
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$1,039,296	\$15,490	\$1,054,786

Summary of Financial Position as of June 30, 2025

	FY 2025	FY 2024
Cash & Equivalents	\$2,489,064	\$3,956,733
Investments	\$24,587,489	\$23,872,387
Gifts & Grants Receivable	\$16,969,491	\$16,566,798
Accounts Receivable	\$57,479	\$313,820
Prepaid & Other Assets	\$1,704,665	\$1,565,714
Loans Receivable	-	\$223,395
Property & Equipment, Net of Depreciation	\$4,618,122	\$5,023,470
Right of Use Asset	\$4,400,456	\$2,816,038
Total Assets	\$54,826,766	\$54,338,355
Impact Notes Payable	-	-
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$2,276,018	\$2,180,644
Refundable Grant Advances	\$2,579,878	\$6,296,046
Loan Payable	\$1,500,000	-
Lease Liability	\$5,409,749	\$3,848,433
Other Liabilities	\$127,655	\$134,552
Total Liabilities	\$11,893,300	\$12,459,675
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$20,331,443	\$19,292,147
Restricted Net Assets	\$22,602,023	\$22,583,533
Total Net Assets	\$42,933,466	\$41,875,680
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$54,826,766	\$54,335,355

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